

Academic Decathlon Held; Wasatch Places Fourth



Members of the Academic Decathlon team are: (Top 1 to r): Chris Anderson, Lyle Waite, Mr. Clegg, Mr. Weight; (Middle 1 to r): Jennifer Raby,

Marika Wren, Laurisa Ward, Sharlene Carlile, and Alice Price; (Bottom 1 to r): Mark Bellows, Barton Clegg, Adam Horrocks, and Jeff Furner.

Wasatch High School, Feb. 11 (LRJ) Student enthusiasm spoke very high for the Third Utah Academic Decathlon held Feb. 7-9 at St. George.

"The Academic Decathlon was an experience I'll never forget," said Adam Horrocks, one of twelve students attending from Wasatch High School under the tutelage Joe Weight, educator.

Even Governor Norman H. Bangerter congratulated those who attended "for the time and energy you have spent in preparing.. Your dedication and perserverance is indicative of your quest for excellence in education."

G. Leland Burningham, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, extended his best wishes and congratulated students "on the academic achievements" they had brought to the competition. It "comes as a result of extensive personal effort, usually related to goals of educational excellence," he stated.

"It was an enlightening experience," said Jennifer Raby. "I wouldn't trade it for all the money in the world." Both she and Sharlene Carlile would like to attend again and receive

Decathlon is a scholastic competition for eleventh and twelfth grade high school students. The winning team from this event will go to the United States Academic Decathlon in April, 1985, at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA.

The six member student teams competed in a series of ten challenging activities. "These include giving a speech, writing an essay, communicating through conversation and participating in the Super Quiz, "Futurism" taken from the book Megatrends by John Naisbitt." Areas covered were: language and literature, mathematics, social science, sciences, fine arts, speech, and economics.

The Awards Luncheon on Feb. 9 was contributed to in part by the Wasatch Boosters who contributed \$150.

Students came from 27 district and were accompanied by their coaches and parents. Local parents who attended were Rose Price, Mr. and Mrs. Brent Carlile, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Raby and Principal and Mrs. Kent Larsen.

In the nine areas measured Wasatch students accumulated 46,179 points and then won 3400

How to Prevent Bat Problems

City-County Health Phil Wright, reminds residents that the winter is the best time to take

to prevent the infestations next summer. In when the temperature is 34 degrees bats in a warmer climate, as

summer approaches and temperatures rise bats will migrate back. Bats are attracted to one another by smell, therefore if an infestation starts other bats are attracted to the area.

The health department recommends that bats should be eliminated from houses and surrounding structures to pre-

vent direct association with people. Structures should be made bat-proof by sealing routes of entrance with screen or other means. The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians also recommends that all dogs and cats be vaccinated against rabies commencing at 3 months of age.



The 1985 Utah Academic Achievement Awards
 Wasatch students participating were: Honors Category: Laurita Ward, Alice Price, Mark Bellows, Jeff Furner; Scholastic Category: Sharlene Carlile, Jennifer Raby, Marika Wren, Adam Horrocks; Varsity Category: John Adams, Lyle Waite, Barton Clegg, Chris Anderson.

Mr. Wright commented that up at 4th place. Teams and Wasatch finally ended changed the outcome for all place, but computer malfunction the students were awarded 3rd points in the Super Quiz. At first

Utah Ranked High in Education

Utah can take pride in its public schools. Our teachers are among the most productive in the United States today. Utah students score above the national average on most standardized exams and have made remarkable gains in recent years on the ACT exam. These accomplishments have been achieved at one of the lowest costs per pupil in the country. However, Utah has not kept pace with increasing student enrollments, rising utility and increasing textbook costs.

Schools have been called on to reform and improve their performance, but this effort to raise the quality of our schools must receive adequate financial support in order to be successful. The single most crucial need before our legislature in 1985 is the increase of the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU.) This is the basic funding for our school programs. In 1969, Utah ranked 39th in the amount spent per student; by 1983 Utah had dropped to 49th. The 1983 legislature provided no increase in the WPU while the 1984

Legislature provided only 4 percent. The State Board of Education is asking for a 9 percent increase this year to attempt to put the WPU back to a point where we can adequately cover the expenses necessary to educate our children.

The second critical educational issue before the legislature is the disposition of the surplus funds in the budget. These funds could be very effectively used to meet one-time needs in our schools such as upgrading the textbooks available to our students or purchasing computers or software to meet the new computer-literacy requirement. Traditionally 48 percent of tax revenue has gone to education, and we would hope that at least that portion of the surplus would be spent on education. Flooding is not the only critical need this year.

Other critical needs the legislature is considering include: Class size. Utah ranks at the bottom in teacher/student ratios. The need is especially critical in the primary grades. Mandatory age for education. The PTA is very opposed to the bill which

would lower the age from 16. Students need to be in school long enough to acquire skills necessary to be productive members of society. Seniors 70 which would discourage against handicapped students limiting the kinds of training they could be funded to is also opposed.

The Wasatch Council Parents and all citizens their elected representatives know of their feelings on issues. When calling or please be specific in what you say. Phone calls are effective. Senator Glade Sowards can be reached on the floor of the legislature at 533-5701; Alarik Myrin at 533-5801. Address: Glade Sowards, 380 W. 1st N. Vernal, 84078 Home 780-0149; Glen Brown, 1st N. Coalville, 84107 Home 336-5874; Alarik Myrin, Route, Altamont, 84001 phone: 454-3494.

Please let the legislature know that education is important. Your voice is important.